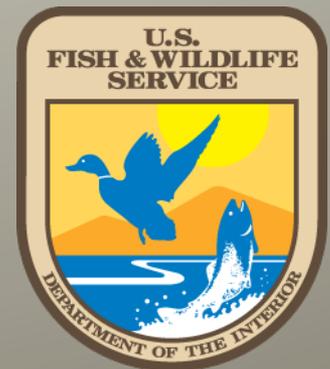


Moving forward with SHC

Next Steps

Region 5 Project Leader Briefing

July 2012



The 21st Century Conservation Vision

Maintain populations
of Federal trust
resources at
levels desired by society



Achieving the Vision

To achieve the Service's vision, we initiated steps in 2006 as part of a collective commitment to become more intentional and systematic in our efforts.

- **Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC)** – Framework for defining and pursuing sustainable populations and landscapes and evaluating success.
- **Increased science capacity** – Provide science-based information and tools for planning, design and delivery. Examples include: LCCs and Refuges I&M Program, Cooperative Recovery, Fish Health Centers etc.

Strategic conservation decision-making comes down to a few key questions

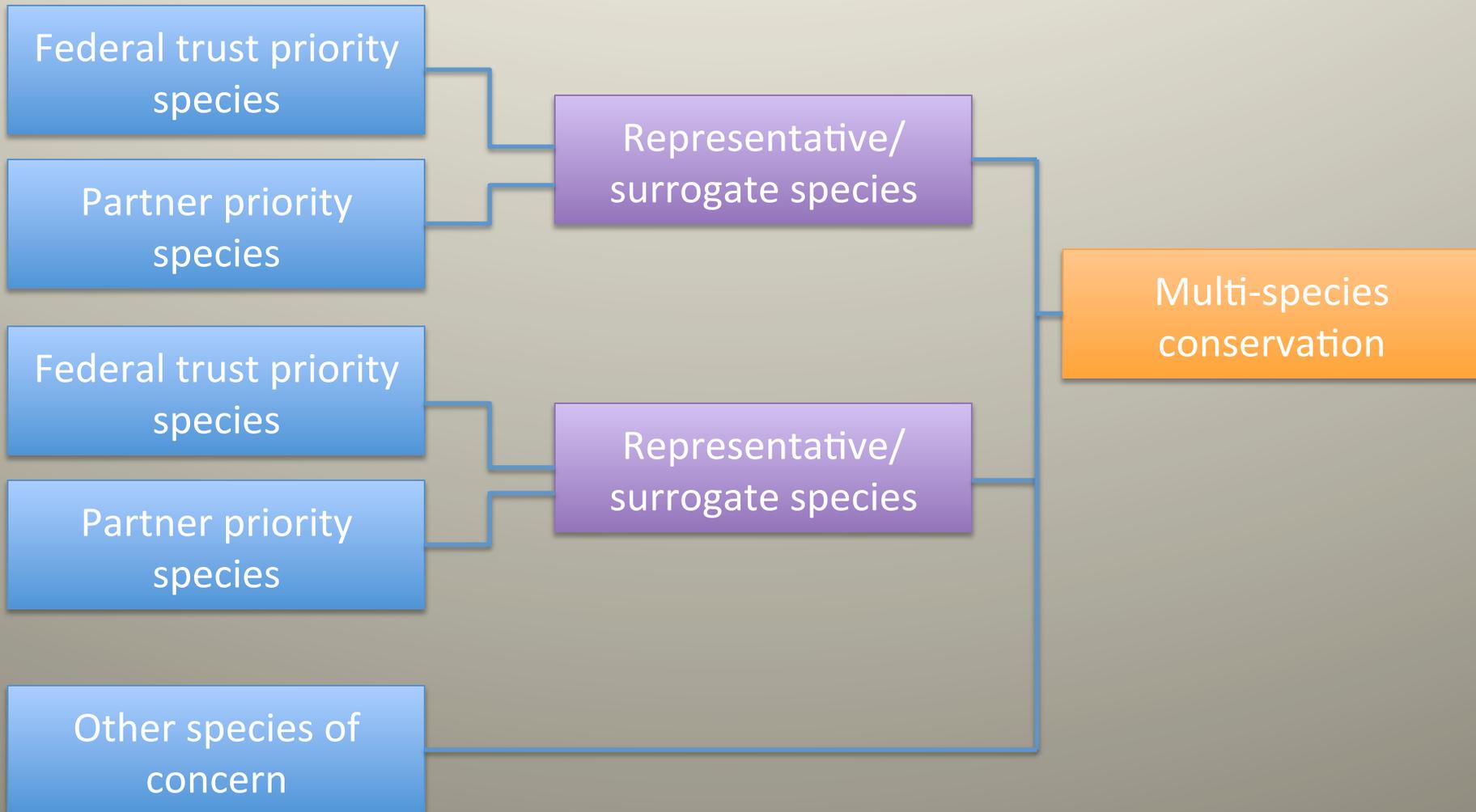
- What species are we going to work on?
- What are we trying to achieve as outcomes?
- What are the impediments to getting there?
- What are we going to do about it?
- Does it work?

Selecting Species for Design of Landscape Scale Conservation

The technical guidance:

- Describes an approach, not prescription, for selecting conservation targets that can represent other species or aspects of the environment (“surrogate species”).
- Suggest LCCs or other ecological units as geographic scale.
- Discusses importance of setting measurable biological objectives.
- Discusses targeting our conservation actions to achieve biological objectives through planning and design.

What is the Representative/Surrogate Approach?



What is the status of representative species?

- Representative species was first initiated by the Region 5 SHC Team.
- Since 2010, the Northeast Region has been working with UMass Amherst, the North Atlantic LCC and Service staff to identify representative species for the geographic area of the LCC.
- An initial list of representative species includes 87 terrestrial and 12 aquatic species.
- The new Conservation Science Team will help identify the next steps toward integrating representative species with our conservation planning.

Region 5 Conservation Science Team

- Julie Slacum Thompson, Ecological Services
- Diane Lynch, Ecological Services
- Dave Perkins, Fisheries
- Mike Millard, Fisheries
- Sadie Stevens, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration
- Randy Dettmers, Migratory Birds
- Jan Taylor, National Wildlife Refuges
- Rick Bennett, Science Applications

Opportunities for NE Region staff involvement:

Provide input on the representative species process and initial list of species:

- to the Conservation Science Team;
- through discussion with your supervisor.

Discussion

- Questions? Comments?
- Please indicate which program you work in when asking a question or providing a comment.
- For additional information on representative species, please visit:
http://www.fws.gov/northeast/science/representative_species.html

Designing Sustainable Landscapes

Work with field staff in
3 pilot areas to:

- *Model current and future habitat capability driven by urban growth, climate change and other human and natural disturbances

- *Develop and test approach to design multi-species landscape habitats

